

I am writing to support the petition to require interoperability among providers of Video Relay Services. I support this petition for several reasons:

- * As a user of VRS services, I should not have to maintain multiple devices in order to communicate with all those people I call. Just as telephones operating on lines belonging to different carriers can call one another, VRS systems should be able to interoperate without penalty or added complexity for the users.

- * Users who depend on VRS services need easy access to emergency services. Being forced to rely on a single vendor to support this access places VRS users at risk if an emergency occurs and that single provider is unable to route the call.

- * VRS providers are reimbursed by the National Exchange Carriers Administration's Interstate TRS Fund, a fund that receives its money through contributions made by all long distance telephone subscribers. No provider receiving money through this federally administered program should be permitted to engage in restrictive practices that block VRS calls.

- * Blocking calls is an anti-competitive practice that can lead to a monopoly by one VRS provider. In order to encourage innovation and competition, all VRS equipment and services should be interoperable.

- * When Congress enacted the relay sections of the ADA, it stated that telecommunications carriers must "provide relay services on a nondiscriminatory basis to all users within their serving areas." Preventing customers from being able to easily access anyone, at anytime, and restricting incoming calls from certain users is discrimination under this Act.

I encourage you to support this petition to ensure open access and interoperability among all VRS providers.

Sincerely,
Tammy Cravit